Accredition of the State Seed Certification Agency

1959. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra have submitted a proposal to APEDA for accredition of the State seed certification agency for organic farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An application was received by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry from Maharashtra State Seed Certification Agency, Akola in January, 2005 for accreditation as a certification body for organic farming.

(c) APEDA has requested the Government of Maharashtra to develop certification programmes and manuals in line with the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) requirements. APEDA is awaiting a feeback from the Government of Maharashtra.

Dryland farming

1960. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new scheme known as Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland Farming Systems has been launched by Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to extend this scheme to other States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?